United Nations A/C.3/65/L.55

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
2 November 2010

Original: English

**Sixty-fifth session**
**Third Committee**
Agenda item 28 (b)
**Advancement of women: implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations**

# Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 64/141 of 18 December 2009,

*Deeply convinced* that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

*Reaffirming* the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[3] the 2005 World Summit,[4] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[5] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] See resolution 65/1.

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*Welcoming* progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,[2]

*Recognizing* that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session[2] rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

*Noting* the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[6]

*Welcoming* the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] and noting with appreciation all its agreed conclusions,

*Welcoming* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, in particular the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women,

*Welcoming* the appointment of Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, as Under-Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women),

*Looking forward* to the timely, effective and efficient operationalization of UN Women and noting the importance of the early elaboration of the forthcoming strategic plan and budget for its operationalization, as well as stressing the need to meet the initial funding requirement to this end,

*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[7] and stressing the importance of the continued integration of a gender perspective in the work and activities of the Human Rights Council,

*Reaffirming* the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[8]

*Bearing in mind* the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women

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[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* (E/2010/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[7] E/2010/57.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[9] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held from 31 May to 2 June 2006,[10] which, inter alia, acknowledged the feminization of the pandemic,

*Expressing serious concern* that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[11]

*Reaffirming* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

*Recalling* Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[12]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] as well as the declaration adopted on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,[2] and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the

[9] Resolution S-26/2, annex.
[10] Resolution 60/262, annex.
[11] A/65/334.
[12] A/65/204.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[13] are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[14] and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible, and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of UN Women, which consolidates mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established under General Assembly resolution 64/289;

7. *Recognizes* the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, as the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions that shall provide normative policy guidance for UN Women;

8. *Recognizes* the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of UN Women, as the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the operational activities that shall provide operational policy guidance for UN Women;

9. *Urges* Member States to ensure adequate funding for the budget of UN Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions to enable UN Women to promptly and effectively plan and carry out its mandate;

10. *Welcomes* the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 2010 on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women";

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[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[14] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

11. *Endorses* the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[6]

12. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,[2] and, as applicable, to carry out its recommendations, and welcomes in this regard the revised programme and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its fifty-third session,[15] which continue to focus attention on the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels as well as to the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

13. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;[2]

14. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys in taking an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and in this regard welcomes encourages Member States to continue to support the ongoing campaign of the Secretary-General on the theme "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the UN Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women";

15. *Reiterates* its call to the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 ("Rio plus 20") and the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing in 2012;

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[15] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15.

16. *Requests* that the entities of the United Nations system systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

17. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;[2]

18. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis, sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development;

19. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities, with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

20. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,[2] through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

22. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session, and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the improvement of the status of

women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

23. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes, and by achieving gender balance;

24. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;[1]

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,[2] with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.